

September 11, 2003

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

RE: MDR Tracking #: M2-03-1507-01

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). ___' IRO Certificate Number is 5348. Texas Worker's Compensation Commission (TWCC) Rule §133.308 allows for a claimant or provider to request an independent review of a Carrier's adverse medical necessity determination. TWCC assigned the above-reference case to ___ for independent review in accordance with this Rule.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine whether or not the adverse determination was appropriate. Relevant medical records, documentation provided by the parties referenced above and other documentation and written information submitted regarding this appeal was reviewed during the performance of this independent review.

This case was reviewed by a practicing physician on the ___ external review panel. The reviewer has met the requirements for the ADL of TWCC or has been approved as an exception to the ADL requirement. This physician is board certified in orthopedic surgery. The ___ physician reviewer signed a statement certifying that no known conflicts of interest exist between this physician and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed this case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the ___ physician reviewer certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party in this case.

Clinical History

This case concerns a 40 year-old male who sustained a work related injury to his knee on _____. The patient reported that while at work he was getting into his truck on an incline when he injured his right knee. The patient sustained a major valgus stress and rotational injury. The patient was evaluated at an emergency center where he underwent X-Rays of the right knee. The patient then developed effusion immediately after the injury. The patient underwent an MRI on 10/12/00 and repeat X-Rays. The patient has undergone aspiration of the right knee, has undergone arthroscopy of the right knee on 3/8/01 and has been treated with NSAIDs.

Requested Services

Right Knee Operative Arthroscopy with synovectomy and chondroplasty (29876,29877,29881).

Decision

The Carrier's denial of authorization for the requested services is overturned.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The ___ physician reviewer noted that this case concerns a 40 year-old male who sustained a work related injury to his right knee on _____. The ___ physician reviewer also noted that the patient sustained a major valgus stress and rotational injury to his right knee. The ___ physician

reviewer further noted that treatment for this patient's condition has included non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, aspiration of the right knee and arthroscopy of the right knee on 3/8/01. The ____ physician reviewer explained that reasonable conservative treatment was performed before surgical intervention was recommended. The ____ physician reviewer also explained that based on this patient's diagnoses and intraoperative findings, arthroscopy, synovectomy and chondroplasty are medically reasonable and indicated to treat this patient's condition. Therefore, the ____ physician consultant concluded that the requested right Knee Operative Arthroscopy with synovectomy and chondroplasty (29876,29877,29881) is medically necessary to treat this patient's condition at this time.

This decision is deemed to be a TWCC Decision and Order.

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10 (ten)** days of your receipt of this decision. (20 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5(c)).

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20 (twenty)** days of your receipt of this decision. (28 Tex. Admin. Code 148.3).

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed. (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to:

Chief Clerk of Proceedings/Appeals Clerk
P.O. Box 17787
Austin, TX 78744
Fax: 512-804-4011

A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.

The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute. (Commission Rule 133.308(t)(2)).

Sincerely,

I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on this 11th day of September 2003.